

TITLE: Music and the Politics of Place and Identity (MPhil Short Course)**Response from: Matthew Machin-Autenrieth (26/2/15)**

I would like to thank the participants of the course for providing very useful feedback. It is the first time that I have run this particular course, and so I welcomed the honest responses to the questionnaires. They have provided me with suggestions and ideas for how to develop the course in future. Overall, I am very pleased that the students responded so positively to the course, its materials, its structure and my delivery. First and foremost, I would like to say that I was delighted with the students' enthusiasm and critical engagement throughout the duration of the course. It was a pleasure to teach them.

From the questionnaires, a couple of suggestions arose that I would like to address here. It was noted by some students that more theory-heavy readings could be included in the reading lists and focused on in the sessions. When I designed the course, I had in mind to concentrate more heavily on ethnographic readings/case studies. It is my belief that ethnographic examples are particularly useful for illustrating the complexities regarding music, place and identity. That being said, I am grateful for the suggestion and will adapt the course in future to strike a better balance between theory and ethnographic case studies. Similarly, I agree that the inclusion of more audio-visual examples to back up the ethnographic readings would have benefited the students. The issue here, of course, is time, and it was difficult to cover such a breadth of material in five two-hour sessions whilst also including relevant audio-visual examples.

Finally, one student questioned why a postdoctoral member of staff is leading an MPhil course, comparing the course with what would be offered at KCL led by Martin Stokes. However, as far as I'm aware such a course is not offered by KCL. It is also important to bear in mind that ethnomusicology is not as well developed at Cambridge, and there is a limited number of Faculty UTOs/lecturers who could offer a course on music, place and identity from an ethnomusicological perspective. Those who could (eg. Kariann Goldschmitt, Ruth Davis) were occupied with their own courses on the MPhil and other programmes.